

In 1988, Rhone-Poulenc, Inc. acquired Stauffer, thereby acquiring the property and the operations that comprises the facility.

In 1989, as part of the pond closure project, and to improve the cinder water management practices, the discharger elected to modify a treatment facility, known as the Process Effluent Purification (PEP) Plant. The PEP Plant was designed to treat the cinder water by removing the metal constituents through a sodium hydroxide precipitation process. The treatment involves a two-stage metals separation, whereby zinc and iron are precipitated separately at two different pH conditions. The iron filter cake is disposed offsite as a non-hazardous waste, and the zinc filter cake is further processed to become a fertilizer product. The closure of the surface impoundments was completed in 1996.

Hazardous Waste Regulatory Issues – The slag and cinder wastes that comprise the underground ore bodies are classified as mineral processing and beneficiation wastes. In 1994, the Department of Toxic Substances Control agreed that the underground ore bodies are exempt from regulations as hazardous waste management units. The Board has classified the ore bodies as Class B mining waste under Chapter 15, Title 23, Article 7 of the California Code of Regulations.

Effective July 18, 1997 many provisions of Division 3, Chapter 15 were moved into Title 27, Division 2, of the California Code of Regulations. The new regulatory citations are attached to this Order (Table 1) and thereby incorporated herein.

PURPOSE OF ORDER

3. The purpose of this order is to rescind previous orders and update the discharger's Self-Monitoring Program, evaluate the performance of the Facility's groundwater extraction and containment systems, and update ongoing operations for the Facility's waste management units.

SITE DESCRIPTION

4. The site contains six waste management units as described below:

- a. **North Cinder/Slag Area and South Cinder/Slag Area**

Mountain Copper Company (MOCOCO) disposed of large quantities of cinder and slag at the site, which has been classified as Class B Mining Waste. The cinders and slag were discharged over the north and south areas of the site, which have been designated as the North Cinder/Slag Area and the South Cinder/Slag Area. The approximately 8.3 acre North Cinder/Slag Area is located on land owned by the State Land Commission while the approximately 7.1 acre South Cinder/Slag area is located on the discharger's property.

North Cinder/Slag Area: The discharger removed the exposed cinder/slag and capped the remaining cinder/slag waste with a minimum of two feet of low permeability soil in 1978. The area is in the post-closure maintenance stage. The discharger has estimated that about 235,000 cubic yards of cinder/slag remain below the cap (ref. Report of Waste Discharge, January 1990). The North